

Traditional Values

COALITION

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CC 97-55

CHAIRMAN
Rev. Louis P. Sheldon

January 29, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Soon the Federal Communications Commission will open the comment period on the television industries new rating system. In discussions with your staff I have learned that the Commission has a standard by which it separates formal from informal comments with formal comments being given more serious consideration in the Commission deliberation.

Few if any of our members have the sort of detailed understanding of the requirements for commenting on matters before the FCC. I hope that you will consider waiving requirements such as "the double spaced original with four copies including the docket number" rule, which most citizens do not know. Many of our members are not accomplished lobbyists nor do they have any commercial interest in their dealings with the Commission. They are largely parents and grandparents who are concerned because television programming has become more and more menacing to the family-raising process.

Thank you for considering my request on behalf of our 32,000 member churches. I do not think it is unreasonable to ask that average citizens not be deprived of their right to formal comment simply because they lack the procedural savvy of the highly-paid network lobbyists they oppose. I look forward to your response. I can be reached at (202) 547-8570.

Sincerely,



Andrea Sheldon
Director, Government Affairs

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RECEIVED February 3, 1997
Monday

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEB 13 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

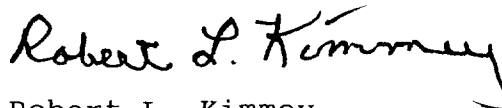
I am writing you today, on behalf of my wife & me, to express my disappointment with the Television Ratings System forced onto the TV viewing public by Mister Jack Valenti and the (so called) Entertainment Industry.

I can't begin to understand why those who allow so much 'trash' to come into our homes in the first place was even considered as the appropriate people who would be called upon to design such a Ratings System!! How can the networks themselves be expected to show impartiality in their own station's Ratings when they are actually in a competition with the other networks themselves? This seems an awful lot like what we describe around my part of Delaware as... 'leaving the foxes in charge of the hen house'.

My wife & I personally take the 'TV-M Rating' as an insult to our values. We are both above the age of sixty and would probably qualify to be considered 'Mature' by this mere fact... and Mister Valenti and the rest of the Entertainment Industry would seem to assume that **we** (as members of the so-called Mature audience) would allow such programs to viewed within our household. Not in our lifetime will programs with such sexual material, profane language, or graphic violence come into this household. Flashing any Rating onto a television screen, whether it is TV-Y, TV-7, TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, and TV-M comes not even close to alerting the viewers of the material content of a particular show. The very vague "age appropriate" Rating System does not give sufficient information to allow us as Parents and Grandparents to make properly informed choices. Parents and Grandparents need to know material content verses age levels in order to guide their families in their selection of suitable viewing for their households.

My wife and I would certainly hope that the FCC has enough concern for this problem to take some type of action which will remove the so-called Entertainment Industry and Mr. Jack Valenti's TV Ratings System from the airwaves and place the responsibility elsewhere. The Industry cannot be depended upon to regulate their programming. The FCC must step in now and take action before it is too late!!!

Sincerely,



Robert L. Kimmey
RD #1
Box 389B
Seaford, Delaware 19973

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Hon. Reed Hundt
Chairman, FCC
FAX 202.418.2801

Mr. Hundt:

I am of the opinion that the TV ratings system, as it is currently being implemented, is not useful. Since this is a 10 month trial, I would like to know to whom I would give my feedback on this trial.

Any forum for feedback that the FCC could give would be appreciated.

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